

This submission is in response to the Official Action dated March 25, 2005. Claims 1-10 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 2 and 4-10 were rejected, with claim 3 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim but otherwise allowable. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of patentable subject matter. Claims 11-20 have been added herein to more fully claim the invention. Therefore, claims 1-20 are currently pending.

Turning to the merits of the Official Action, claims 1-2 and 5-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,536,013 to Haghiri-Therani *et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,895,074 to Chess *et al.* The Examiner states that Haghiri-Therani possesses all of the elements of claim 1 except that it contains punch lines instead of microperforations, which is taught by Chess. According to the Examiner, it would be obvious to make the lines of Haghiri-Therani of microperfs for a cleaner look. The Examiner further contends that the overprinting step of the claims is met by the background in Haghiri-Therani.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. As a first matter, Haghiri-Therani does not contain punch lines. Rather, the lines 5 in Haghiri-Therani merely show where the cards are punched out of the solid (unperforated) sheet. This is clear from Haghiri-Therani, which states, “[a] multiple of identification cards . . . can be punched out of a sheet. The broken line 5 indicates the subsequent punched line.” *See* col. 3, lines 34-36; *see also* col. 4, lines 9-13 (“the cards must be punched out before being laminated. Otherwise, punching out is carried after lamination”). Thus, Haghiri-Therani does not contain punch lines in the sheet as in claim 1.

In addition, the background in Haghiri-Therani is not the same as the claimed overprinting step. The background 3 in Haghiri-Therani must be placed on the paper 1 prior to the image 14 being placed thereon. *See* Col. 3, lines 6-8 and col. 4, lines 1-3. This is in contrast to the overprinting in the present claims, which by definition occurs after the image is placed on

the card (over vs. background). Nonetheless, claim 1 has been amended to make absolutely clear that the overprinting step takes place after printing of the images. As this amendment merely makes explicit what was already implicit in the claims, no change in scope is effected. Haghiri-Therani simply does not teach or suggest the overprinting step in claim 1. Therefore, is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 1, and claims 2 and 4-8 dependent thereon, be withdrawn. New claims 19 and 20, which are indirectly dependent on claim 1, should also be allowed.

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haghiri-Therani in view of Chess for essentially the same reasons as claim 1. Claim 9 has been amended herein to make clear that the decorative layer is overprinted (as this at most merely makes explicit that which was already implicit in the claims, no change of scope is effected). Thus, the claimed decorative layer is not met by the background print of Haghiri-Therani, and for the same reasons that claim 1 is patentable, claim 9 is also patentable.

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,655,494 to Buzzell. The Examiner states that Buzzell shows a multilayered protective cover laminated to a front surface of card bearing an image 30, and that Buzzell teaches overprinting a stripe 18 over the image beneath a protective layer.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Claim 10 does not recite "overprinting." Rather, claim 10 as filed recited that the decorative layer is on the front surface of the card. As can be seen in Figure 6, stripe 18 is not on the front surface of the card. Stripe 18 is within the overlay 10, not on the card 30. Claim 10 has been amended herein to recite that the front surface of the image card contains a decorative layer. Applicant submits that is merely alternative language to the claim as filed in order to leave no doubt as where the decorative layer is located. Applicant therefore requests that the rejection of claim 10 be withdrawn.

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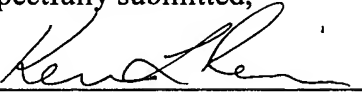
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New claim 11 is directed to a perforated image card with a plurality of images, with a decorative layer and a protective layer. Applicants submit that claim 11, and new claims 12-18, are patentable for the same reasons as set forth above with respect to claims 1 and 9. The cited art does not teach or suggest a card with images separated by perforations with a decorative layer thereon and further a protective layer. Thus, allowance of these claims is also respectfully requested.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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